Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES December 9, 2024

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Dr. Signe Balch
Derrick Letsinger
Chris Sturgeon

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley (absent)

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance: Alpacas Magazine is losing money so it is being dropped. There is a rule about doing vet check on trailers but at a recent show it was done in the event area. Looking at the budget and although it is still in the black, they need to find ways to increase revenue from registrations.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts
  - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is still a concern. There was an outbreak in California at a raw dairy farm and some milk had to be recalled. Producers have concerns about testing.
  - Screwworm has been seen in Mexico. We are trying to block it from entering the US.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 Avian influenza: is still a problem in dairies and we may still see more cases with bird migration.

- 3.2 BVD information. Signe found a 2021 article about sero-prevalence in alpacas in China, but had to find any research being done more recently.

- **3.3** Traceability Regulations/Premises and Location Identification Draft eBlast: Bonnie emailed a draft eBlast to members, and Signe has a few suggestions. Chris made a motion to recommend it be sent as an eBlast once Signe's input is received; second by Derrick. Motion carried.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1 There were reports of diarrhea in alpacas after the Buckeye alpaca show. There have been other reports of animals developing diarrhea after exposure to alpacas that attended the show. Alpacas were reportedly let off the trailers for vet check against show rules. Bonnie and Signe developed a proposed eBlast for distribution reminding owners about biosecurity. It is recognized that stress may cause short-term diarrhea in alpacas, but it usually clears up overnight, and any alpaca with diarrhea should be quarantined. Derrick noted an alpaca with diarrhea in a pen next to his at a recent show. Alpaca had been treated for several days prior to the show, and the show staff were aware. There is no specific guidance for show veterinarians, and it is good when they can walk the pens, but not all veterinarians remain on site after vet check. Signe will work on some guidance for show veterinarians

5.0 Approval of Minutes

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- 5.1 Minutes of 11/11/2024: Chris made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Signe. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting date will be held on 1/13/2025.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter